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U.S. DELEGATION TO REACH PAKISTAN TODAY TO RESUME TALKS WITH IRAN

US President Donald Trump renewed his threats to destroy Iran's vital infrastructure if it did not agree to a deal with the US to end the war

'NO MORE MR. NICE GUY', TRUMP WARNS IRAN

Trump said his negotiators would arrive in Islamabad on Monday evening. Ahead of the expected talks, Trump stepped up his threats saying the US will "knock out every single power plant and bridge in Iran" if it does not agree to the deal he offers. "NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!" he wrote on Truth Social. Vice President J D Vance is expected to lead the US delegation

DAY AFTER SHIPS FIRED AT, STRAIT STAYS SHUT

- The Strait of Hormuz remained closed on Sunday. Trump slammed Iran for violating the ceasefire by firing upon ships transiting the strait
- Meanwhile, Iran doubled down on its pledge to curb ships transiting through the strategic waterway. "It is impossible for others to pass, while we cannot," Iranian speaker Mohammed Ghalibaf said | **P11**

Wednesday

WHEN THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S. EXPIRES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Oppn parties see poll code violation in PM's address

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition for voting against the women's quota bill in the Lok Sabha, the Left parties wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar alleging Modi's address to the nation violated the poll code. A Congress leader in Kerala also wrote to the EC against the alleged violation, while West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said she would soon file a complaint against Modi's "illegal campaign".

In separate letters to the poll panel, CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby and CPI Rajya Sabha MP P Sandosh Kumar alleged misuse of public broadcaster Doordarshan to influence public opinion in the mids of state elections.

Baby said the prime minister's televised address constitutes a flagrant breach of the MCC provision laid down in the section under the heading Party in Power. "It was blatantly political, targeting the opposition parties... and seeking to influence public opinion, including the voters of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, in favour of the ruling party," he said, adding appropriate proceedings should be initiated.

CPI's Sandosh Kumar said that the speech contained attempts at influencing public opinion on a matter under active political contestation.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said her party plans to file a formal complaint with the Election Commission.

In his complaint to the Election Commission of India, former Congress MLA Anil Akkara termed the PM's address "a grave breach of election protocols" and sought appropriate action.

Concrete structures reduced to rubble at the Vanaja fireworks unit in Kattanarpatti after a massive explosion; (right) fire and rescue services personnel carrying an injured man to safety; (inset) a woman breaks down outside the Virudhunagar MCH | KK SUNDAR

23 killed, 11 injured in explosion at Tamil Nadu firecracker unit

Police and media personnel, including *TNIE* photographer, hurt in second blast during rescue op

HARINI M @ Virudhunagar

AT least 23 workers were charred to death and 11 others sustained injuries in a massive explosion at Vanaja fireworks unit at Kattanarpatti village near Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

Five policemen, some media personnel, including *TNIE* senior photojournalist K K Sundar, and a few fire and rescue services personnel suffered injuries in a second blast at the private firecracker unit during rescue operation around 7 pm.

Based on preliminary inquiry, police said the incident happened around 3 pm when around 50 employees were working at the licensed unit. The blast is believed to have originated in the front veranda area, where workers were allegedly handling raw materials. The impact of the blast was so severe that at least four rooms were reduced to rubble, and several adjacent structures were completely levelled. Sources said fire and rescue services personnel battled the flames for several hours.

So far, police have identified the deceased as K Velsamy (56), S Porkodi (63) both from Thiruthangal village, K Pandiammal (55), M Bakyalakshmi (40), K Kaliammal (45), M Indhurani (46), R Mariammal (57), K Maruthan (50), his wife Nagammal (48), K Pandiammal (54), A Janaki (55) and I Nachiammal (55), all from Servaikarampatti. The charred bodies of the deceased were shifted to Government Virudhunagar Medical College Hospital and the injured are also getting treatment at the same hospital.

Police identified the injured as Saratha, Panjavarnam, Petchiammal, Sangli Thangam, Veerabathran, Arunkumar, a 12-year-old V Sathish (son of one of the workers who was playing at the spot). Among the injured, Petchiammal and Panjavarnam sustained more than 80% burns and are said to be critical. The rescue operations resumed post a brief halt after the second blast. Minister KKSSR Ramachandran said Chief Minister M K Stalin will announce compensation after getting approval from the ECI.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Stalin expressed condolences. **P9**

A DEAFENING BLAST AND CALL OF DUTY

Virudhunagar: In a firsthand account, TNIE's photojournalist K K Sundar recounts a harrowing experience during the blast at Kattanapatti. While approaching the site on Sunday, Sundar was nearly caught in a massive secondary blast. The explosion was so powerful that it caused temporary disorientation and a head injury from flying debris. Despite the physical trauma and panic, Sundar overcame personal fear to answer his call of duty

Dinesh Trivedi to be India's next envoy to Dhaka

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a calibrated move, the government is set to appoint former Union minister and former Trinamool Congress leader Dinesh Trivedi as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh, opting for a political heavyweight over a career diplomat at a moment of cautious reset in Dhaka-New Delhi ties.

Though Bangladesh had been quietly informed that the next envoy would be a political appointee, Trivedi's selection stands out for both timing and signalling value.

He replaces Pranay Verma, who moves to Brussels as India's ambassador to the European Union. Trivedi becomes one of the few overtly political nominees to a sensitive neighbourhood posting in recent years.

The appointment comes as India looks to reset its Bangladesh policy amid an evolving political landscape under the Tarique Rahman dispensation.

Against this backdrop, sending a 75-year-old political veteran suggests a deliberate pivot: from protocol-heavy diplomacy to a more politically managed engagement, where messaging, access and negotiation bandwidth may outweigh traditional bureaucratic continuity. The move also carries domestic political messaging as Trivedi is a former Trinamool Congress leader.

Trivedi's own arc—from a Trinamool Congress minister in the UPA government under Manmohan Singh to a BJP entrant in 2021—adds a layer of political adaptability that may be seen as useful in a complex bilateral setting. His parliamentary experience across both Houses, and familiarity with West Bengal's political landscape, could also prove relevant in managing cross-border sensitivities.

The backdrop to this decision is a period of strain following the upheaval associated with Muhammad Yunus's interim phase, during which bilateral ties frayed alongside concerns over the safety of minorities. The precedent is not entirely isolated in recent times. The earlier deployment of former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag to Seychelles hinted at a broader willingness to assign high-profile figures to strategic missions.

Ex-Trinamool leader

Trivedi, 75, served as the Railway minister and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare during the UPA rule. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal and was a Lok Sabha MP from Barrackpore. He quit the Trinamool Congress in 2021 and joined the BJP

9,000 Indians facing deportation from Canada as new law kicks in

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ABOUT 9,000 Indians, most of them students from Punjab, who had sought asylum in Canada, are facing deportation under the country's new immigration law. Bill C-12, enacted on March 26, tightens rules for asylum seekers in Canada.

Many students from Punjab, who had adopted the asylum route to extend their stay in Canada after completing their studies there, due to stringent visa rules and limited pathways to permanent residency, would be affected.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Immigration Minister said the government is now implementing the new law and is in the process of sending procedural fairness letters to affected individuals.

According to reports, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has told some of them to leave the country immediately.

Reports said the IRCC has issued procedural fairness notices to 30,000 asylum seekers, including 9,000 from India, informing them that their asylum claims may no longer qualify and advising them to leave Canada voluntarily or face enforcement action.

The IRCC has clarified that those receiving the notice have 21 days to submit additional information.

Failure to respond to the notice could lead to deportation proceedings, it said.

These notices have triggered panic. Affected individuals have been advised to consult registered immigration consultants or lawyers and gather all supporting documents.

Bill C-12 retroactively bars individuals who entered Canada more than one year prior to filing an asylum claim from referring their cases to the Immigration and Refugee Board. This rule applies to entries dating back to June 24, 2020.

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Tighter curbs on asylum seekers

Under Bill C-12, which came into force on March 26, individuals applying for asylum more than one year after arriving in Canada will be deemed ineligible for a full hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board

RETURN TO HEYDAYS

Tourists pose for a photo in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. A year after the terrorist attack, visitors are slowly returning to the tourist spot | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Accident on NH-50 kills 4, injures 25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hosapete

A serial accident claimed four lives and left at least 25 people injured near Danapur village in Hosapete taluk on Sunday. The accident occurred on a stretch of the National Highway-50 where ongoing road repair and bridge construction work had restricted traffic movement to a single lane.

A lorry transporting sacks of garlic from Delhi to Bengaluru lost control and rammed into multiple vehicles. It first hit a car before crashing into a government bus and then three motorcycles. It then hit a van and a container lorry before overturning by the roadside, according to the police.

The deceased have been identified as Sujatha (40) and her father Nagappa (80), residents of Kittur village in Hagaribommanahalli taluk, and Durgappa (55) from Talebasapura tanda, who was riding one of the motorcycles. Authorities later confirmed that the death toll had risen to four.

The injured include passengers of the government bus, which was heading from Hosapete to Chitradurga. The lorry rear-ended the bus, leaving around 25 passengers injured. All of them were immediately shifted to the Hosapete Government Hospital. Of the injured, six were referred to the Koppal District Hospital for advanced care, while the remaining are being treated at the Hosapete district hospital.

Police said the ongoing highway repair work, which had reduced traffic movement to one side, could be the major reason for the accident.

PUB BRAWL

MAN PUSHED FROM 2ND FLOOR DIES

A 30-year-old man died on the spot after he was allegedly pushed from the second floor of a pub in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, late on Saturday night following a heated altercation. The deceased, Nishanth, was a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru. | **P5**

6 drown in Cauvery, CM announces Rs 5L relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

SIX people, including three children, who had gathered for an urus, drowned in the Cauvery river near Arkeshwara Temple in KR Nagar taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday.

All the deceased had come to a nearby dargah. As they were playing in the river, one of them slipped away, while others, trying to rescue the person, entered the water. The deceased were identified as Fatima (42), wife of Ismail from Udayagiri in Mysuru; Mohammed Yasin (23), son of Mohammed Babu, an autorickshaw driver from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Neha Kausar (19), wife of Mohammed Yasin, from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Uzeir (5), son of Sadiq, from Udayagiri, Mysuru; Emma Aiman (13), daughter of Arif, from Kadugondanahalli, Bengaluru; and Afif Ahmed (13), child of Riyaz Pasha from Muslim Block, KR Nagar.

Expressing grief, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted on X that he was deeply saddened by the deaths. He announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the relatives of each deceased. Mysuru SP Mallikarjun Baladangi and KR Nagar police have visited the spot and are investigating the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

Public gather in front of a hospital in KR Nagar where the survivors are under treatment

NEW CHAPTER

Tata Trusts scraps Parsi-only clause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

TATA Trusts, led by chairman Noel Tata, on Sunday said it has decided to correct certain clauses in the trust deed of the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution that restrict trusteeship to Parsis, and that too to those residing in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency.

"The trustees, at their April 17 meeting, have decided to initiate proceedings... for alteration of restrictive clauses with respect to the eligibility of trustees," Tata Trusts said in a rare public statement.

The development comes days after Mehli Mistry, a former trustee of the Tata Trusts, challenged the appointments of industrialist Venu Srinivasan and former defence secretary Vijay Singh to the board of Hirabai Trust in a complaint to the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner.

The dozen-odd trusts, which own 66.4% of the nation's largest business group, have been embroiled in controversy ever since Noel Tata became chairman in 2024. Several trustees questioned the trusts' functioning and sought the listing of holding company Tata Sons.

Non-Zoroastrians have been appointed to the trusts since 2000, following a legal opinion obtained from former Chief Justice of India M H Kania. Tata Sons director R Krishna Kumar became the first non-Parsi trustee on the board of the Hirabai Trust, created under a 1916 codicil to the will of Ratan Tata.

EXPRESS READ

AI tool from CBI to save people from digi-arrest

New Delhi: In a first, the CBI is all set to unveil an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot on Monday to deal with digital arrest fraud cases and to help people verify the authenticity of notices reportedly issued to them. **P9**

PBKS beat LSG by 54 runs, remain on top

Priyansh Arya from PBKS, one of the country's most talked about T20 batting talent alongside Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, smashed his way to 93 as PBKS demolished Lucknow Super Kings by 54 runs in an IPL match on Sunday. **P13**